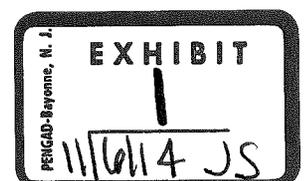


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Master-In-Equity, Richland County

1. NAME: The Honorable Joseph Monroe Strickland  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P. O. Box 192  
Columbia, SC 29202-0192  
TELEPHONE NUMBER:(office): 803-576-1903
2. Date of Birth: 1955  
Place of Birth: Abbeville, SC
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes  
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes
5. Family Status: Married to Karen Ann Grogan Strickland on May 6, 1995.  
Never divorced; one child.
6. Have you served in the military?  
United States Army Reserve, 1977 through 1985. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Resigned Commission in 1997, Honorable Discharge.
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.  
(a) Princeton University, 1973-77, AB;  
(b) Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1977-78, 1979-81, JD.
8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.  
(a) District of Columbia, 1984;  
(b) SC, 1985;  
(c) I took the Bar exam but was never admitted in New York. I took the Bar exam in the District of Columbia three times. I passed the SC Bar exam upon the first attempt.
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
Princeton University:  
Vice-President, Undergraduate Student Government, 1976-77  
Army ROTC Corps Adjutant, 1975-77  
Saxophone player in the Triangle Club Orchestra and the University Jazz Ensemble.  
Vanderbilt University School of Law:  
University Committee on Alumni Education 1979-81  
Black Law Student's Regional Moot Court Team, Winner of "Best Brief" Award, 1981.



10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
(a) 2008 Judicial Conference	08/20/2008;
(b) SC Women Lawyers	09/17/2008;
(c) 2008 Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	10/10/2008;
(d) 2009 Annual Judicial Conference	08/19/2009;
(e) 2009 Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	10/09/2009;
(f) 2010 Judicial Conference	08/18/2010;
(g) 2010 Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	10/08/2010;
(h) Make-up Ethics portion of Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	01/08/2011;
(i) J. Waites Waring and the Dissent	05/19/2011;
(j) 2011 Annual Judicial Conference	08/17/2011;
(k) 2011 Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	10/14/2011;
(l) The Importance of an Independent Judiciary	01/17/2012;
(m) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	03/27/2012;
(n) Annual Circuit Court Judges Conference	05/02/2012;
(o) 2012 Annual Judicial Conference	08/22/2012;
(p) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	09/19/2012;
(q) SC Black Lawyers Association	09/26/2012;
(r) 2012 Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	10/12/2012;
(s) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	10/16/2012;
(t) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	01/15/2013;
(u) Lawyer Mentoring Training Workshop	01/30/2013;
(v) Lawyer Mentoring Program	03/01/2013;
(w) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	03/19/2013;
(x) Annual Circuit Court Judges Conference	05/01/2013;
(y) 2013 Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/2013;
(z) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	09/01/2013;
(aa) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	10/08/2013;
(bb) 2013 Master-In-Equity Bench/Bar	10/11/2013;
(cc) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court	11/12/2013.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

I am frequently asked to speak to groups of citizens and lawyers regarding my duties as Master-In-Equity. My remarks are extemporaneous.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

- (a) SC Foreclosure Manual, Editorial Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition;
- (b) Op-Ed piece, The State, June 18, 1997;
- (c) Op-Ed piece, The Columbia Record, late 1980's, unable to locate.

13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

- (a) District of Columbia Court of Appeals, June 25, 1984;
- (b) Supreme Court of SC, November 21, 1985;

- (c) U. S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, July 29, 1985;
  - (d) U. S. District Court, District of SC, January 3, 1986;
  - (e) U. S. Supreme Court, June 27, 1997.
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

The undersigned candidate graduated from Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey in 1977 which is ranked by *US News and World Report* as one of the nation's best national universities. In 1981, the undersigned graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, Tennessee, which is ranked by *US News and World Report* as one of the nation's best law schools.

My first job, after law school, was in the United States Senate. I was appointed Second Assistant Parliamentarian by the Secretary of the Senate upon recommendation of the Majority Leader, the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr. This job facilitated exposure to the legislative process. I became an expert on the rules and procedures of the United States Senate. Sometimes, I helped Senators and staff draft legislation to comply with procedural requirements. I referred all bills and communications from the President to the appropriate committee on behalf of the Vice President, who is the President of the Senate. I left the job to work for a few months as an assistant to a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In 1984, my next job was in Columbia, SC as a clerk for U.S. District Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr. This job facilitated exposure to many aspects of the federal judicial system. I prepared the judge for hearings, trials, sentencing hearings, and pleas in civil and criminal cases. Serving as a law clerk is the best preparation for future service on the bench that I know. Most members of the bar do not have this credential.

Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough offered me a job while I was clerking for Judge Perry. The firm had 50 lawyers when I joined as an associate in 1985. There, I practiced primarily in the area of products liability and commercial litigation. Much of my time was spent on a massive toxic tort case involving AT& T Nassau Metals. More than 300 plaintiffs complained of health problems from fumes emanating from a metal recycling plant. Later, I spent a lot of time working on a series of cases brought against CFW Construction Company, Inc. involving alleged bid rigging and alleged violations of federal anti-trust law. Some of my time was devoted to smaller breach of warranty cases for General Motors Corporation. During my last year with the firm, I focused on defending claims brought before the Workers' Compensation Commission. I worked at the firm until I was appointed Richland County Master-in-Equity on July 17, 1989. I have served continuously for more than 25 years.

As Master-in-Equity, I can hear any civil non-jury case. I have been exposed to commercial contract disputes, environmental cases, employment law cases, and a wide variety of foreclosure and real estate cases. Since 1994, I have also served as a Special Circuit Court Judge. I hear motions in jury cases and generally assist with a non-jury docket. Additionally, I assist in general sessions matters on a limited basis.

I have passed bar examinations in Washington, DC and SC. Most attorneys are not licensed in multiple jurisdictions.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I was an associate at Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough, which is an AV rated firm.

22. Have you ever held judicial office? Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

The undersigned was appointed Master-In-Equity for Richland County on July 17, 1989 by Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. with the advice and consent of the SC General Assembly. I have since been reappointed by Governor David Beasley and Governor Mark Sanford with advice and consent of the SC General Assembly. The Master-In-Equity is a division of Circuit Court and can hear any civil non-jury case referred by a circuit judge. In 1994, I was appointed Special Circuit Court Judge by order of Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney, Jr. of the Supreme Court to hear motions in jury cases and generally assist with the non-jury docket, approve minor settlements, accept grand jury returns, and other matters. This appointment has been renewed by each successive Chief Justice. Additionally, Chief Justice Jean Toal amended the order appointing me Special Circuit Court Judge to allow me to hear some criminal matters.

23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

(a) Adkins v. SC Department of Corrections, 602 S.E. 2d 51(S.C. 2004);

(b) Fici v. Koon, 642 S.E. 2d 602 (S.C. 2007);

(c) Sloan v. Friends of the Hunley, 711 S.E. 2d 895 (S.C. 2011);

(d) O'Braitis v. O'Braitis, 602 S.E. 2d 108 (S.C. Ct. Appeals, 2004);

(e) Stanley v. Atlantic Title Insurance Company, 661 S.E. 2d 62 (S.C. 2008).

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty?

(a) Appointed member, Richland County Planning Commission, 1986-87, appointed by Richland County Council;

(b) Appointed member, SC Jobs Economic Development Authority, 1987-89, appointed by Governor Campbell;

(c) Elected member, SC Republican Party Executive Committee, 1987-89, elected at Richland County Republican Party Convention.

I have always timely filed my report with the State Ethics Commission during the period I held public office.

25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. None

26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?

In 2006, I was an unsuccessful candidate for SC Circuit Court Judge.

In 2001, I was an unsuccessful candidate for SC Circuit Court Judge.

In 1998, I was an unsuccessful candidate for SC Circuit Court Judge and US Magistrate.

27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? No
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No
29. A complete, current net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None
31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?

I have been sued several times in my life. All cases were frivolous and were dismissed. In 1987, I was part of a group of people sued in the Court of Common Pleas during the week of the Richland County Republican Convention. I was a candidate for the state executive committee and my opponent was one of the Plaintiffs. Judge Ralph King Anderson dismissed the action pursuant to rule 12(b)6, SCRPC. The Complaint alleged I discriminated against Black people and violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. All of the plaintiffs were White.

In 1992, a disgruntled former employee sued me in federal court. She had been terminated two years earlier and claimed I discriminated against her because she is Black and caused her to suffer mental illness, among other things. Judge Dennis Shedd granted my Motion for Summary Judgment on nine causes of action. The Insurance Reserve Fund negotiated a settlement of the tenth cause of action; a claim of retaliation.

In 1995, disgruntled litigants who exhausted their appeals in state court sued me in federal court. The litigants claimed, among other things, they were discriminated against because they were Black because I ruled against them in a partition lawsuit brought by one of their relatives. Judge Dennis Shedd dismissed the case pursuant to rule 12(b)6, FRCP.

In recent years, several disgruntled litigants in foreclosure cases have sued me. All cases were dismissed.

In 2011, Mr. Glenn K. Laconey sued me and two Circuit Court Judges in Federal Court. I was never served. The case was dismissed by Judge Cameron Currie. Please note, Mr. Laconey was allowed to testify against me at my last screening. Recently, in July of 2014, Mr. Laconey was convicted of harassing me. He was sentenced to time served. Presently, he is being held without bond and has been charged with making threats against public officials. He planned to blow-up the Richland County Courthouse. An investigation by the SC Attorney General's Office discovered that Mr. Laconey created a Facebook account in my name. I am not a member of any social media type website.

Additionally, an incompetent attorney named me as a defendant in a foreclosure case even though I presided over the case and I was not a party to the note and mortgage. Further, I had no connection to any attorney or party involved in that case. The case against me was dismissed by the attorney.

36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? No
37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy. Not applicable
38. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? No
39. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No
40. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No
41. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. No
42. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None
43. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None
44. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None
45. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No
46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No
47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No

48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No
49. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
- (a) President, John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court, 2013-14;
  - (b) President, SC Master-In-Equity Judges Association, 2008-10;
  - (c) District of Columbia Bar Association;
  - (d) Richland County Bar Association;
  - (e) SC Bar Association;
  - (f) Columbia Lawyer's Association;
  - (g) SC Black Lawyer's Association;
  - (h) National Bar Association;
  - (i) American Bar Association;
  - (j) SC Association of Women Lawyers.
50. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
- (a) Lifetime member, NAACP;
  - (b) Member, The Palmetto Club of Columbia.
51. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.  
See resume' attached.
52. References:
- (a) Honorable Jasper Cureton  
S.C. Court of Appeals  
P. O. Box 11181  
Columbia, SC 29211  
(803) 734-1926
  - (b) Ms. Andrea Loney  
S.C. Legal Services  
P. O. Box 1445  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 744-4179
  - (c) Mr. Adrian O'Neil Rashley, Jr.  
S.C. Bankers Association  
P. O. Box 1483  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 779-0850
  - (d) Ms. Deborah McElveen-Dawson  
SC Community Bank  
1545 Sumter Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 231-2232

- (e) Ms. Susan M. Golston, Office Manager  
Richland County Master-in-Equity  
1701 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 576-1904

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: Joseph M. Strickland

Date: August 4, 2014